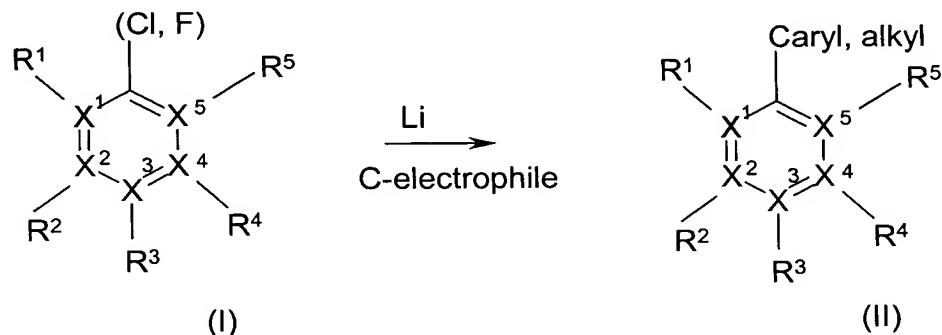


In the Claims

Amend the claims as follows:

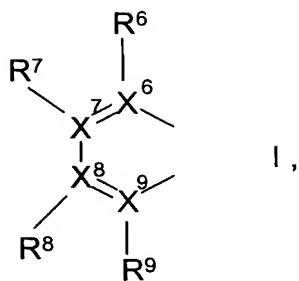
1. (currently amended) A process for preparing compounds of the formula (II),



where the substituents R¹ to R⁵ are each independently H, CH₃, straight-chain or branched C₁-C₈-alkyl, CH(OC₁-C₅-alkyl)₂, CH(C₁-C₅-alkyl)(OC₁-C₅-alkyl), CH₂(OC₁-C₅-alkyl), CH(CH₃)(OC₁-C₅-alkyl), C₁-C₈-alkoxy, N(C₁-C₅-alkyl)₂, phenyl, substituted phenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, S(C₁-C₅-alkyl) or a radical C_{aryl}, alkyl, and

the symbols X^{1 to 5} are each carbon or with a maximum of two neighboring X¹⁻⁵ are nitrogen or X¹R¹ and X²R² together are O, NH, N(C₁-C₅-alkyl), N(C=O-C₁-C₅-alkyl), N(SiR₃)₂ or S,

or where neighboring radicals R¹ to R⁵ form the following structural unit,



where X⁶ to X⁹ and R⁶ to R⁹ have the same meaning as X¹ to X⁵ and R¹ to R⁵

and

the radical C_{aryl}, alkyl is straight-chain or branched, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₈-alkyl, 1-hydroxyalkyl having from 1 to 8 carbon atoms, CN, 2-hydroxyalkyl having from 2 to 5 carbon atoms, 3-hydroxyalkyl having from 3 to 5 carbon atoms, 1-NHR-alkyl having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms, CH(OC₁-C₅-alkyl)₂, C(C₁-C₅-alkyl)(OC₁-C₅-alkyl), CH₂(OC₁-C₅-alkyl), CH(CH₃)(OC₁-C₅-alkyl), C₁-C₅-alkoxy, N(C₁-C₅-alkyl)₂, phenyl, substituted phenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, CO₂H, CO₂alkyl, (C=O)_{0.5}, substituted 1-vinylalkyls, CH₃-C(=O), R-C(=O) or CHO, which comprises reacting chloro- or fluoroaromatics of the formula (I) with carbon electrophiles and lithium metal.

2. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carbon electrophile is selected from the group consisting of:

aryl or alkyl cyanates ($C_{aryl,alkyl} = CN$)

oxirane, substituted oxiranes ($C_{aryl,alkyl} = CH_2CH_2OH$, substituted CR_2CR_2OH)

azomethines ($C_{aryl,alkyl} = CR^1_2-NR'H$)

nitroenolates ($C_{aryl,alkyl} = \text{oximes}$)

immonium salts ($C_{aryl,alkyl} = \text{amines}$)

haloaromatics, aryl triflates, other arylsulfonates ($C_{aryl,alkyl} = \text{aryl, heteroaryl}$)

carbon dioxide ($C_{aryl,alkyl} = COOH$)

carbon monoxide ($C_{aryl,alkyl} = (-CO-)_{0.5}$)

aldehydes, ketones ($C_{aryl,alkyl} = CHR^1-OH, CR^1_2-OH$)

α,β -unsaturated aldehydes/ketones ($C_{aryl,alkyl} = CH(OH)\text{-vinyl}, CR^1(OH)\text{-vinyl}$)

ketenes ($C_{aryl,alkyl} = C(=O)CH_3$ in ketene, $C(=O)-R$ in substituted ketenes)

alkali metal and alkaline earth metal salts of carboxylic acids ($C_{aryl,alkyl} = CHO$ in formates, $COCH_3$ in acetates, R^1CO in $R^1COOMet$)

aliphatic nitriles ($C_{aryl,alkyl} = COCH_3$ in acetonitrile, R^1CO in R^1CN)

aromatic nitriles ($C_{aryl,alkyl} = COAr'$)

amides ($C_{aryl,alkyl} = CHO$ in $HCONR^1_2$, $C(=O)R^1$ in $R^1CONR^1_2$)

esters ($C_{aryl,alkyl} = [C(OH)R^1]_{0.5}$) or

alkylating agents ($C_{aryl,alkyl} = \text{alkyl}$).

3. (original) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reaction is performed at a temperature in the range from -100 to +80°C.
4. (original) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein lithium is used in the form of a dispersion, powder, turnings, sand, granules, pieces or in the form of bars.
5. (currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the solvent used is an aliphatic or aromatic ether, a hydrocarbon or an amine which does not carry a hydrogen on the nitrogen atom, preferably triethylamine, diethyl ether, tetrahydrofuran, toluene, toluene-THF mixtures, anisole and diisopropyl ether, more preferably toluene, THF or diisopropyl ether.
6. (original) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the process is performed as a one-pot process.
7. (original) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the organolithium compound is first generated and then reacted with the carbon electrophile at the same or a slightly different temperature.

8. (original) The process as claimed in claim 1, where the straight-chain or branched C₁-C₈-alkyl is a C₁-C_y-alkyl and the C₁-C₈-alkoxy is a C₁-C_y-alkoxy.
9. (original) The process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the reaction is performed at a temperature in the range from -100 to +80°C.
10. (original) The process as claimed in claim 2, wherein lithium is used in the form of a dispersion, powder, turnings, sand, granules, pieces or in the form of bars.
11. (currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the solvent used is an aliphatic or aromatic ether, a hydrocarbon or an amine which does not carry a hydrogen on the nitrogen atom, preferably triethylamine, diethyl ether, tetrahydrofuran, toluene, toluene-THF mixtures, anisole and diisopropyl ether, more preferably toluene, THF or diisopropyl ether.
12. (original) The process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the process is performed as a one-pot process.

- 13. (original) The process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the organolithium compound is first generated and then reacted with the carbon electrophile at the same or a slightly different temperature.**
- 14. (original) The process as claimed in claim 3, wherein lithium is used in the form of a dispersion, powder, turnings, sand, granules, pieces or in the form of bars.**
- 15. (currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the solvent used is an aliphatic or aromatic ether, a hydrocarbon or an amine which does not carry a hydrogen on the nitrogen atom, preferably triethylamine, diethyl ether, tetrahydrofuran, toluene, toluene-THF mixtures, anisole and diisopropyl ether, more preferably toluene, THF or diisopropyl ether.**
- 16. (original) The process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the process is performed as a one-pot process.**
- 17. (original) The process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the organolithium compound is first generated and then reacted with**

the carbon electrophile at the same or a slightly different temperature.

18. (currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 4, wherein the solvent used is an aliphatic or aromatic ether, a hydrocarbon or an amine which does not carry a hydrogen on the nitrogen atom, preferably triethylamine, diethyl ether, tetrahydrofuran, toluene, toluene-THF mixtures, anisole and diisopropyl ether, more preferably toluene, THF or diisopropyl ether.
19. (original) The process as claimed in claim 4, wherein the process is performed as a one-pot process.
20. (original) The process as claimed in claim 4, wherein the organolithium compound is first generated and then reacted with the carbon electrophile at the same or a slightly different temperature.